

Acton Public Schools
Acton-Boxborough Regional School District
Town of Acton

JTAC Minutes
May 17, 2000

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Present: Jim Chace, John Donnelly (9:00), Bob Ferrara, Mark Hald,
Don Johnson, Terry Lindgren (Chair), John Murray, Jack Reetz,
Isa Zimmerman

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The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m.

1. Marie Altieri's report leads us to consider additional staffing for technology initiatives for:

- Pentamation expertise
- MIS function (applications, hardware)
- Training and support

Consider next spring Town Meeting. We may bog down before then. Everyone is on a different system.

She indicated that the Pentamation problem is with the connection in the schools.

The reports need a team to design and implement - not just one person. End users will produce best reports - depends on training and in-house expert.

Town is using IQ which is what Pentamation supports and people are being trained to use. There is, however, an option to use another. IQ is hard to use. Crystal is a strong alternative to investigate. Don Johnson will follow up. Check out Real Query (Bob Ferrara will follow up.) Whatever we select must be end-user easy and quickly learned.

2. John Murray presentation work of Mark, Jim and Tess and Frank: General Communication - see attached charts. There is a one-time firewall cost for Town. The solution can be made in 60 days and cuts schools' cost while increasing capacity for both sides.

This is a good step as a cooperative joint effort. Thanks to the JTAC for enabling the savings and opportunity.

Schools are planning to bring email inside firewall - through Cisco or building project.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously

VOTED: To take this recommendation to the Selectmen.

3. Purchasing report - Jim Chace

Schools do a lot of collaborative purchasing, e.g. EDCO, CASE, TEC, MEC. State supports a website to facilitate eCommerce for municipalities. (COMPASS = state bid list). There are ways to have economy of scale between two entities.

Town also bids through consortium - salt, Police cars, etc.

Town will check legality of using school pricing - Town/Jim will research web, etc. purchasing of technology products.

4. Jim and Isa summarized the letter schools sent to Cisco. The town is encouraged to talk to Boxborough about their needs and Acton's opportunities.

5. Long-range planning for JTAC

- Propose a subset of people to identify some elements of the plan for the future to present at next year's Town Meeting (to meet during the summer)
- Identify high 5 payoffs by technical people in the future
- Bring staff input into summer deliberations

Who wants to do this? And meet during summer? Four or less?

Next meeting: June 21, location TBA

- Create subcommittee (see #5 above)
- Town staff will report on key future points
- School Staff/CTAC 2 Subcommittee will also report on vision
- Jointly, staff will propose the 5 payoffs.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Isa Kaftal Zimmerman